Weekly Policy News Summary

Year **2024** – Week 27

The Commission: State of the Digital Decade 2024 report published

The Commission published the second report on the State of the Digital Decade, providing a comprehensive overview of the progress made to achieve the digital objectives and targets set for 2030 by the Digital Decade Policy Programme (DDPP). This year, for the first time, the report is accompanied by an analysis of the national Digital Decade strategic roadmaps presented by Member States, detailing the planned national measures, actions and funding to contribute to the EU's digital transformation. The Commission's analysis shows that, in the current scenario, the collective efforts of Member States will fall short of the EU's level of ambition. The identified gaps include the need for additional investments, both at EU and national levels, particularly in digital skills, high-quality connectivity, uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics by enterprises, semiconductor production and start-up ecosystems. In this context, the Commission also updated country-specific and cross-cutting recommendations for every EU Member State to address the identified gaps. More details at 2024 State of the Digital Decade report

DG MOVE: New EU Transport Report: Current trends and issues

The Commission has released an overview of the latest developments in the EU transport sector, highlighting trends and issues for both the EU and individual Member States. Transport ensures connectivity and mobility across Europe, making a significant contribution to free movement, cohesion and competitiveness within the internal market. **The report** covers transport resilience, emphasising the need for recovery investments to modernise and green the sector, strengthen the Single Market and complete the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) while ensuring safe and secure mobility. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of maintaining supply chains and coordinated connectivity. For each EU country, the report provides an overview of key transport indicators, including the structure of the TEN-T network, modal split, railway sector market opening, road safety, uptake of alternative fuels, and greenhouse gas emissions.

ESA: New satellite to show how AI advances Earth observation

Artificial intelligence technologies have achieved remarkable successes and continue to show their value as backbones in scientific research and real-world applications. ESA's new Φsat-2 mission, launching in the coming weeks, will push the boundaries of AI for Earth observation – demonstrating the transformative potential of AI for space technology. Earth observation has, for decades, provided a rich stream of actionable data for scientists, businesses, and policymakers. Thanks to new satellites and advanced sensors, the scale and quality of available Earth observation data have risen exponentially in the past decade. The integration of AI has significantly enhanced Earth observation. AI capabilities allow for more data to be processed quickly and accurately, helping to enable to transform vast amounts of raw data into actionable insights. As part of an initiative to promote the development and implementation of innovative technologies onboard Earth observation missions, ESA launched Φ-sat-1 in 2020. It was ESA's first experiment to demonstrate how artificial intelligence can be used for Earth observation and paved the way for its successor: Φsat-2. Φsat-2 is a dedicated AI mission which will fully explore the benefits and capabilities of utilising extended onboard processing and further demonstrate the benefits of using AI for innovative Earth observation.